



San Joaquin River
Parkway and
Conservation Trust, Inc.

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Henry T. Perea
California State Assembly
2550 Mariposa Mall, Suite 5031
Fresno, CA 93721

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Subject: Requesting support for San Joaquin River Parkway and San
Joaquin River Restoration Program in the California Water Bond

Dear Assemblymember Perea:

On behalf of the River Parkway Trust, I'm writing to ask for your support for funding for the San Joaquin River Parkway and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program as discussions for the California Water Bond move forward. Combined, these two river projects provide enormous benefits to Valley communities, our regional economy, and quality of life.

Underscoring the potential for economic stimulus, UC Merced completed the attached benefit study of implementing the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act and found that the project will generate more than 11,000 jobs in the San Joaquin Valley. With the Water Bond under discussions, it is critically important that the State fulfill its funding commitment to restoration of the San Joaquin River and implementation of the Settlement, ensuring that any new bond maintains existing funding from Proposition 84 and creates additional funding for restoration.

The State committed to provide \$200 million as its initial share to implement the Settlement, including \$100 million specifically approved by the voters in Proposition 84, with the other \$100 million designated by the administration's implementation of infrastructure bond acts voters approved in the same year. To date, the State has spent \$44 million of the \$200 million promised and these funds have been used to develop more than 100 groundwater monitoring wells, addressing seepage issues, improving levees, implementing fisheries science, and project design and management.



CREATING AND PROTECTING THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY

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The past funding action by the State was a good first step and; now, with the Water Bond under discussion, you are in a unique position to help take the next step for these important projects.

The San Joaquin River Restoration Program and the San Joaquin River Parkway provide multiple benefits to the Valley that are very tangible to its citizens; such as, outdoor recreation—getting kids outside and providing additional fishing, hiking, and other activities for families; improving the river's flood capacity and enhancing its ability to act as a natural defense system from flooding; and, ensuring a healthy streamside forest for the fish and wildlife we enjoy that will also keep pollution from flowing into the river and preventing it from eventually contaminating our drinking water.

For these reasons, we urge you to include funding for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program and the San Joaquin River Parkway in your negotiations on development of California's next Water Bond. These two projects will significantly improve our quality of life and regional economy.

Sincerely, with appreciation of your consideration and efforts,



Dave Koehler
Executive Director